

09/313,297



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EXAMINER

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2162

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

SM

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/313,297

Applicant(s)
Kawan et al.

Examiner
John Young

Art Unit
2162



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 17, 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-66 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 5 & 6 20) ☐ Other:

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DRAWINGS

1. This application has been filed with drawings that are considered informal; however, said drawings are acceptable for examination and publication purposes. The review process for drawings included with applications on filing has been modified in view of the new requirement to publish applications at eighteen months after the filing date of applications, or any priority date claimed under 35 U.S.C. §§119, 120, 121, or 365.

CLAIM REJECTIONS — 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

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2. Independent claims 1 & 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Masi et al. 6,105,001 (15/08/2000) [US f/d: 15/08/1997] class 705/14 (herein referred to as "Masi") in view of Rosen 5,453,601 (26/09/1995) class 705/65 (herein referred to as "Rosen").

As per claim 1, Masi (col. 2, ll. 13-62) discloses: "*an exemplary non-cash payment and commission system according to the invention. The system is adapted for managing purchases of goods or services by members (i.e., persons or distributors) of a network marketing . . . organization. . . . the proprietor of each merchant location agrees to provide a discount for each purchase of goods or services by the member as a proportion of the purchase price of such goods or services, or as a fixed amount per purchase. . . . a computer site being used to sell products through a network. . . . The terminal . . . is then operative to activate the electronic communication interface . . . to establish an electronic data connection . . . with a debit authorization and transaction processor. . . . In embodiments wherein the communication interface . . . comprises a modem, the data connection . . . may be a telephonic connection. In other embodiments, alternative known methods of electronic data transmission may be employed to establish the data connection. . . .*"

Masi (col. 3, ll. 19-40) discloses: "*When a purchase is approved, the authorization processor . . . transmits an electronic authorization signal along the data connection . . . to the purchase processing terminal . . . at the merchant location. . . . When a purchase is approved by the processor . . . the processor . . . then establishes a data connection . . . with an automated clearing house (ACH) processor. . . . The ACH*

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processor . . . is further connected with an electronic funds transfer network 18 for effecting electronic transfers of funds among a merchant account . . . a member account . . . and an organization account. . . . For each purchase, the authorization processor . . . instructs the ACH processor . . . to effect the following electronic fund transfers: a debit to the member account . . . a credit to the merchant account . . . a debit to the merchant account . . . and a credit to the organization account . . . in the amount of the discount or fixed amount."

Masi (col. 3, ll. 42-44) discloses: "*the authorization processor . . . is configured to transmit purchase data to a commission management system . . . maintained by the network marketing organization."*

Masi (col. 3, ll. 58-64) discloses: "*a Personal Business Volume field . . . for storing a record of purchase discounts, or a portion thereof, attributable to the member's use of the debit card. . . ."*

Masi (col. 4, ll. 12-14) discloses: "*stores the new value of the member's Personal Business volume in the member's record . . . in the database. . . ."*

Masi (col. 5, ll. 1-6) discloses: "*Member A would be required to accumulate \$50 of Personal Business volume in order to qualify for receipt of commissions. . . ."*

Masi (col. 5, ll. 17-20) discloses: "*In an alternative embodiment, the payment processor subsystem . . . may effect an electronic fund transfer . . . from the organization account . . . to the member account. . . ."*

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Masi (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) shows elements that suggest: "A method of performing a transaction between a merchant and a member with electronic scrip, comprising: receiving information relating to the transaction between the merchant and the member, including a transaction amount; automatically debiting an account of the member by the transaction amount; automatically crediting a predetermined merchant portion of the transaction amount to an account of the merchant; and automatically crediting a predetermined balance portion of the transaction amount to at least one of a sponsoring organization account and a scrip distributor account."

Masi lacks an explicit recital of "electronic scrip" even though Masi (col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 3, ll. 19-40) discloses "*an electronic fund transfer*" which suggests electronic scrip.

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; and col. 4, ll. 6-12) discloses "*electronic money*." The Examiner interprets the disclosure of "*electronic money*" as equivalent to "electronic scrip" within the context of the claims of the instant invention; therefore,

Rosen proposes "*electronic money*" modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that "*electronic money*" would have been selected in accordance with "electronic scrip" because such selection would have facilitated online commercial transactions; and it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the "*electronic money*"

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modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such “*electronic money*” would have been “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “a scrip distributor. . . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor. . . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor.”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

As per claim 2, Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 1. (See the rejection of claim 1 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-37; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) shows a “*Terminal*” for “*data entry. . . .*”

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Masi lacks an explicit recital of “receiving information further comprises entering the information at a terminal.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that a “*Terminal*” for “*data entry. . .*” would have been selected in accordance with “receiving information further comprises entering the information at a terminal. . .” because such selection would have facilitated online commercial transactions.

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor”; (see the rejection of claim 1 supra).

As per claim 3, Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 2. (See the rejection of claim 2 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1, el. 18; and col. 3, ll. 23-27) discloses a “*network. . .*”

Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-37; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) shows a “*Terminal*” for “*data entry. . .*”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “the terminal coupled over a network at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor. . .” even though Masi (FIG. 1, el. 18; col. 3, ll. 23-27; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-37; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) shows elements that suggest “the terminal coupled over a network at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor. . .” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (FIG. 1, el. 18; col. 3, ll. 23-27; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-37; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) would

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have been selected in accordance with “the terminal coupled over a network at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online commercial transactions.

As per claim 4, Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 2. (See the rejection of claim 2 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-37; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) shows a “*Terminal*” for “*data entry*. . . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “a merchant terminal”; even though Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-37; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) shows a “*Terminal*” for “*data entry*. . . .” suggests same. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-37; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) would have been selected in accordance with “a merchant terminal. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online commercial transactions.

As per claim 5, Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 2. (See the rejection of claim 2 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-47; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) shows elements that suggest “entering data for the member from a scrip card at the terminal.”

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Masi lacks an explicit recital of “entering data for the member from a scrip card at the terminal”; even though Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-47; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) suggests same. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-47; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) would have been selected in accordance with “entering data for the member from a scrip card at the terminal. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online commercial transactions.

As per claim 6 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 5. (See the rejection of claim 5 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-47; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) shows elements that suggest “entering data for the member from a magnetic stripe scrip card at the terminal.”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “entering data for the member from a magnetic stripe scrip card at the terminal”; even though Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-47; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) suggests same. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-47; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) would have been selected in accordance with “entering data for the member from a magnetic stripe scrip card at the terminal. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online commercial transactions.

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As per claim 7 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 5. (See the rejection of claim 5 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-47; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) shows elements that suggest "entering data for the member from a magnetic stripe scrip card at the terminal."

Masi lacks an explicit recital of "entering data from an application on a smart scrip card for the member at the terminal."

Rosen (col. 2, ll. 15-22) discloses "*smart cards. . . .*"

Rosen proposes "*smart card*" modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the "*smart card*" modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was "*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*" (See Rosen col. 4, ll. 9-10).

As per claim 8 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 5. (See the rejection of claim 5 supra).

Masi (col. 2, ll. 24-27; and col. 3, ll. 58-62) shows elements that suggest "the data further comprises an account number for the member."

Masi lacks an explicit recital of "the data further comprises an account number for the member"; even though Masi (col. 2, ll. 24-27; and col. 3, ll. 58-62) suggests same. It

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would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (col. 2, ll. 24-27; and col. 3, ll. 58-62) “*encoding member information thereon, such as by magnetically encoding an account number of the member on a magnetic stripe. . . .*” would have been selected in accordance with “the data further comprises an account number for the member. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 9 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 1. (See the rejection of claim 1 supra).

Masi (col. 4, ll. 4-13; and FIG. 1, el. 26) discloses a: “*commission management system. . . .*”; the Examiner interprets this disclosure as suggesting a system manager

Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-30) discloses an “*ACH processor . . . to effect . . . electronic fund transfers. . . .*”; the Examiner interprets this disclosure as suggesting “a scrip distributor. . . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “a scrip distributor. . . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-30; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor. . . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor.”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a

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person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have provided means for distributing electronic money that was "*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*" (See Rosen col. 4, ll. 9-10).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of "wherein receiving information further comprises receiving the information by at least one of a system manager at a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor at a scrip distributor terminal." It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (col. 4, ll. 4-13; FIG. 1, el. 26; col. 3, ll. 23-30; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) in view of the disclosure of Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) would have been selected in accordance with "wherein receiving information further comprises receiving the information by at least one of a system manager at a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor at a scrip distributor terminal. . . ." because such electronic money distribution would have provided means for distributing electronic money that was "*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*" (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

As per claim 10 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 9. (See the rejection of claim 9 supra).

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Masi (col. 4, ll. 4-13; FIG. 1, el. 26; col. 3, ll. 23-30; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) in view of the disclosure of Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) show elements that suggest “wherein receiving information further comprises receiving the information by a system manager at a system manager from a merchant terminal. . . .”

Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; and FIG. 1, el. 18) discloses a: “*network*.”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein receiving the information further comprises receiving the information by the system manager at the system manager from a merchant terminal over a network.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; and FIG. 1, el. 18) discloses a: “*network*.” combined with the disclosure of Masi (col. 4, ll. 4-13; FIG. 1, el. 26; col. 3, ll. 23-30; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) in view of the disclosure of Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein receiving the information further comprises receiving the information by the system manager at the system manager from a merchant terminal over a network. . . .” because such electronic money distribution would have provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen col. 4, ll. 9-10).

As per claim 11 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 9. (See the rejection of claim 9 supra).

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Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; and FIG. 1, el. 18) discloses a: “*network*.”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein receiving the information further comprises receiving the information by the scrip distributor at the scrip distributor terminal from a merchant terminal over a network.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; and FIG. 1, el. 18) disclosing a: “*network*.” combined with the disclosure of Masi (col. 4, ll. 4-13; FIG. 1, el. 26; col. 3, ll. 23-30; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) in view of the disclosure of Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein receiving the information further comprises receiving the information by the scrip distributor at the scrip distributor terminal from a merchant terminal over a network. . . .” because such electronic money distribution would have provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen col. 4, ll. 9-10):

Claim 12 is rejected for substantially the same reasons as claim 9.

Claim 13 is rejected for substantially the same reasons as claim 10.

Claim 14 is rejected for substantially the same reasons as claim 11.

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As per claim 15 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 12. (See the rejection of claim 12 supra).

Masi (col. 2, ll. 24-27; and col. 3, ll. 58-62) shows elements that suggest “the member account number.”

Masi (col. 2, ll. 64-67) discloses showing “*the identity of the merchant. . . .*”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein receiving the request further comprises receiving data identifying at least one of the member account and the merchant.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (col. 2, ll. 24-27; and col. 3, ll. 58-62) “*encoding member information thereon, such as by magnetically encoding an account number of the member on a magnetic stripe. . . .*” and the disclosure of Masi (col. 2, ll. 64-67; and col. 3, ll. 58-62) would have been selected in accordance with “receiving data identifying at least the member account number and the merchant. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 16 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 1. (See the rejection of claim 1 supra).

Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; and FIG. 1, el. 18) discloses a: “*network.*”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically debiting further comprises automatically sending a request for the transaction from a terminal over a network to at least one of a system manager at a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor at a

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scrip distributor terminal.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; and FIG. 1, el. 18) disclosing a: “*network*.” combined with the disclosure of Masi (col. 4, ll. 4-13; FIG. 1, el. 26; col. 3, ll. 23-30; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) in view of the disclosure of Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein automatically debiting further comprises automatically sending a request for the transaction from a terminal over a network to at least one of a system manager at a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor at a scrip distributor terminal” because such electronic money distribution over a network would have provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen col. 4, ll. 9-10).

As per claim 17 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 16. (See the rejection of claim 16 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically sending the request to the system manager further comprises receiving the request by the system manager at the system manager terminal.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “automatically sending the request to the system manager further comprises receiving the request by the system manager at the system manager terminal. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been

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obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “automatically sending the request to the system manager further comprises receiving the request by the system manager at the system manager terminal. . . .” because such a concept and advantages were known to make computer operation and management more intuitive.

As per claim 18 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 17. (See the rejection of claim 17 supra).

Masi (col. 2, ll. 24-27; and col. 3, ll. 58-62) shows elements that suggest “the data further comprises an account number for the member.”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein receiving the request by the system manager further comprises receiving data by the system manager identifying at least one of the member account and the member.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (col. 2, ll. 24-27; and col. 3, ll. 58-62) “*encoding member information thereon, such as by magnetically encoding an account number of the member on a magnetic stripe. . . .*” would have been selected in accordance with “wherein receiving the request by the system manager further comprises receiving data by the system manager identifying at least one of the member account and the member. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

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As per claim 19 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 18. (See the rejection of claim 18 supra).

Masi (col. 2, ll. 48-55; col. 2, ll. 64-67; col. 3, ll. 1-12; and col. 5, ll. 53-67) show elements that suggest “wherein receiving the data by the system manager further comprises confirming a balance by the system manager in the identified member account adequate to cover the transaction amount.”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein receiving the data by the system manager further comprises confirming a balance by the system manager in the identified member account adequate to cover the transaction amount.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (col. 3, ll. 1-12) “*assessing whether there is an acceptably low risk of default on the amount of the purchase. . . . the authorization processor may make such determination by obtaining access to a member’s debit account balance. . . .*” would have been selected in accordance with “wherein receiving the data by the system manager further comprises confirming a balance by the system manager in the identified member account adequate to cover the transaction amount. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 21 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 16. (See the rejection of claim 16 supra).

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Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically sending the request to the scrip distributor further comprises receiving the request by the scrip distributor at the scrip distributor terminal.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “automatically sending the request to the scrip distributor further comprises receiving the request by the scrip distributor at the scrip distributor terminal. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “automatically sending the request to the scrip distributor further comprises receiving the request by the scrip distributor at the scrip distributor terminal. . . .” because such a concept and advantages were known to make computer operation and management more intuitive.

As per claim 22 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 21. (See the rejection of claim 21 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein receiving the request by the scrip distributor further comprises receiving data by the scrip distributor identifying at least one of the member account and the member.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein receiving the request by the scrip distributor further comprises receiving data by the scrip distributor identifying at least one of the member account and the member. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it

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would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein receiving the request by the scrip distributor further comprises receiving data by the scrip distributor identifying at least one of the member account and the member. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 23 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 22. (See the rejection of claim 22 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein receiving the data by the scrip distributor further comprises confirming a balance by the scrip distributor in the identified member account adequate to cover the transaction amount.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein receiving the data by the scrip distributor further comprises confirming a balance by the scrip distributor in the identified member account adequate to cover the transaction amount. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein receiving the data by the scrip distributor further comprises confirming a balance by the scrip distributor in the identified member account adequate to cover the transaction amount. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

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As per claim 24 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 23. (See the rejection of claim 23 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein confirming the balance by the scrip distributor further comprises confirming the balance by the scrip distributor in at least one account of the member selected from a group consisting of a member scrip account, a member checking account, and a member savings account.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein confirming the balance by the scrip distributor further comprises confirming the balance by the scrip distributor in at least one account of the member selected from a group consisting of a member scrip account, a member checking account, and a member savings account. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein confirming the balance by the scrip distributor further comprises confirming the balance by the scrip distributor in at least one account of the member selected from a group consisting of a member scrip account, a member checking account, and a member savings account. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 25 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 1. (See the rejection of claim 1 supra).

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Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically debiting the member account further comprises automatically debiting at least one account of the member selected from a group consisting of a scrip account, a banking account, and a checking account.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein automatically debiting the member account further comprises automatically debiting at least one account of the member selected from a group consisting of a scrip account, a banking account, and a checking account. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein automatically debiting the member account further comprises automatically debiting at least one account of the member selected from a group consisting of a scrip account, a banking account, and a checking account. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 26 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 25. (See the rejection of claim 25 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically debiting the member scrip account further comprises storing data in the member scrip account representing member scrip credit.”

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“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein automatically debiting the member scrip account further comprises storing data in the member scrip account representing member scrip credit. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein automatically debiting the member scrip account further comprises storing data in the member scrip account representing member scrip credit. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 27 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 26. (See the rejection of claim 26 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein the data representing member scrip credit further comprises transferring the member scrip credit from at least one of a sponsoring organization account and a scrip distributor account.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein the data representing member scrip credit further comprises transferring the member scrip credit from at least one of a sponsoring organization account and a scrip distributor account. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein the data representing member scrip credit further comprises transferring the member scrip credit from at least one of a sponsoring organization account and a scrip

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distributor account. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 28 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 27. (See the rejection of claim 27 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein transferring the member scrip credit from the organization account further comprises storing data in the organization account representing organization scrip credit.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein transferring the member scrip credit from the organization account further comprises storing data in the organization account representing organization scrip credit. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein transferring the member scrip credit from the organization account further comprises storing data in the organization account representing organization scrip credit. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 29 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 28. (See the rejection of claim 28 supra).

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Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein storing the data representing organization scrip credit further comprises transferring the organization scrip credit from a scrip distributor account.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein storing the data representing organization scrip credit further comprises transferring the organization scrip credit from a scrip distributor account. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein storing the data representing organization scrip credit further comprises transferring the organization scrip credit from a scrip distributor account. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 30 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 29. (See the rejection of claim 29 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein transferring the organization scrip credit further comprises storing data in the scrip distributor account representing distributor scrip credit.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein transferring the organization scrip credit further comprises storing data in the scrip distributor account representing distributor scrip credit. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been

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obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein transferring the organization scrip credit further comprises storing data in the scrip distributor account representing distributor scrip credit. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 31 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 30. (See the rejection of claim 30 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein storing the data representing distributor scrip credit further comprises purchasing the distributor scrip credit from the merchant.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein storing the data representing distributor scrip credit further comprises purchasing the distributor scrip credit from the merchant. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein storing the data representing distributor scrip credit further comprises purchasing the distributor scrip credit from the merchant. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 32 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 27. (See the rejection of claim 27 supra).

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Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein transferring the member scrip credit from the scrip distributor account further comprises storing the data in the scrip distributor account representing distributor scrip credit.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein transferring the member scrip credit from the scrip distributor account further comprises storing the data in the scrip distributor account representing distributor scrip credit. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein transferring the member scrip credit from the scrip distributor account further comprises storing the data in the scrip distributor account representing distributor scrip credit. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 34 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 1. (See the rejection of claim 1 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically debiting further comprises automatically sending confirmation of the debit to the merchant.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein automatically debiting further comprises automatically sending confirmation of the debit to the merchant. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the

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advantages of “wherein automatically debiting further comprises automatically sending confirmation of the debit to the merchant. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 35 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 34. (See the rejection of claim 34 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically sending the confirmation further comprises automatically sending the confirmation to the merchant at a merchant terminal over a network.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein automatically sending the confirmation further comprises automatically sending the confirmation to the merchant at a merchant terminal over a network. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein automatically sending the confirmation further comprises automatically sending the confirmation to the merchant at a merchant terminal over a network. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 36 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 35. (See the rejection of claim 35 supra).

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Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically sending the confirmation further comprises automatically sending the confirmation to the merchant terminal over a network by at least one of a system manager at a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor at a scrip distributor terminal.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of ““wherein automatically sending the confirmation further comprises automatically sending the confirmation to the merchant terminal over a network by at least one of a system manager at a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor at a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein automatically sending the confirmation further comprises automatically sending the confirmation to the merchant terminal over a network by at least one of a system manager at a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor at a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 37 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 1. (See the rejection of claim 1 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically debiting further comprises automatically storing merchant loyalty point credit for the member in connection with the transaction amount.”

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Masi (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; col. 1, ll. 13-60; col. 3, ll. 62-64; col. 4, ll. 4-65; and col. 5, ll. 1-67) shows elements that suggest “wherein automatically debiting further comprises automatically storing merchant loyalty point credit for the member in connection with the transaction amount.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; col. 1, ll. 13-60; col. 3, ll. 62-64; col. 4, ll. 4-65; and col. 5, ll. 1-67) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein automatically debiting further comprises automatically storing merchant loyalty point credit for the member in connection with the transaction amount. . . .” because such selection would have provided a means “to attract potential customers.”

As per claim 38 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 37. (See the rejection of claim 37 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein storing further comprises automatically storing tuition credit for the member in connection with the transaction amount based on attaining a threshold level of stored loyalty point credit.”

Masi (col. 1, ll. 42-43) discloses providing “*enrollment incentives. . . .*” The Examiner interprets “*enrollment incentives. . . .*” as suggesting “tuition credit. . . .”

Masi (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; col. 1, ll. 13-60; col. 3, ll. 62-64; col. 4, ll. 4-65; and col. 5, ll. 1-67) shows elements that suggest “wherein storing further comprises automatically storing tuition credit for the member in connection with the transaction

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amount based on attaining a threshold level of stored loyalty point credit.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; col. 1, ll. 13-60; col. 3, ll. 62-64; col. 4, ll. 4-65; and col. 5, ll. 1-67) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein storing further comprises automatically storing tuition credit for the member in connection with the transaction amount based on attaining a threshold level of stored loyalty point credit. . . .” because such selection would have provided a means “to attract potential customers.”

As per claim 39 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 1. (See the rejection of claim 1 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically crediting the merchant portion further comprises automatically determining the merchant portion according to a predetermined merchant percentage of the transaction amount.”

Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45) discloses “*enrollment incentives to merchants. . . .*”

Masi (col. 3, ll. 38-40) discloses “*a credit of \$20 paid to the merchant account. . . .*”

Masi (col. 5, ll. 22-25; col. 5, ll. 53-54; and col. 4, ll. 30-67) shows elements that suggest “wherein automatically crediting the merchant portion further comprises automatically determining the merchant portion according to a predetermined merchant percentage of the transaction amount.” It would have been obvious to a person of

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ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45; col. 3, ll. 38-40; col. 5, ll. 22-25; col. 5, ll. 53-54; and col. 4, ll. 30-67) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein automatically crediting the merchant portion further comprises automatically determining the merchant portion according to a predetermined merchant percentage of the transaction amount. . . .” because such selection would have provided a means to “*provide enrollment incentives to merchants. . . .*” (See Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45)).

As per claim 40 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 39. (See the rejection of claim 39 supra).

Masi (FIG. 2; and FIG. 3) shows elements that suggest “wherein automatically determining the merchant portion further comprises automatically consulting a look-up table for the predetermined merchant percentage.”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically determining the merchant portion further comprises automatically consulting a look-up table for the predetermined merchant percentage.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (FIG. 2; and FIG. 3) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein automatically crediting the merchant portion further comprises automatically determining the merchant portion according to a predetermined merchant percentage of the transaction amount. . . .” because such

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selection would have provided a means to “*provide enrollment incentives to merchants. . .*” (See Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45)).

As per claim 41 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 40. (See the rejection of claim 40 supra).

Masi (FIG. 2; and FIG. 3) shows elements that suggest “automatically consulting the look-up table. . . .”

Masi (FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; col. 1, ll. 43-45; col. 3, ll. 38-40; col. 5, ll. 22-25; col. 5, ll. 53-54; and col. 4, ll. 30-67) shows elements that suggest “storing the predetermined merchant percentage in the look-up table in a database. . . .”

Masi (FIG. 1, el. 18; and col. 3, ll. 23-27) discloses a “*network. . .*”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor. . . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor terminal.”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided

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means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

Masi (col. 4, ll. 4-13; FIG. 1, el. 26; col. 3, ll. 23-30; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) in view of the disclosure of Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein receiving information further comprises receiving the information by at least one of a system manager at a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor at a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” because such electronic money distribution would have provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically consulting the look-up table further comprises storing the predetermined merchant percentage in the look-up table in a database coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi in view of Rosen would have been selected in accordance with “wherein automatically consulting the look-up table further comprises storing the predetermined merchant percentage in the look-up table in a database coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” because such selection would have provided a means to “*provide enrollment incentives to merchants. . . .*” (See Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45)).

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As per claim 42 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 1. (See the rejection of claim 1 supra).

Masi (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) shows elements that suggest: “wherein automatically crediting the merchant portion. . .” and “a system manager. . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “a scrip distributor. . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor. . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor.”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

Masi (col. 4, ll. 4-13; FIG. 1, el. 26; col. 3, ll. 23-30; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) in view of the disclosure of Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein automatically crediting the

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merchant portion further comprises automatically crediting the merchant portion of the transaction by at least one of a system manager and a scrip distributor. . . .” because such electronic money distribution would have provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

As per claim 43 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 42. (See the rejection of claim 42 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1, el. 18; and col. 3, ll. 23-27) discloses a “*network. . . .*”

Masi (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) shows elements that suggest: “wherein automatically crediting the merchant portion. . . .” and “a system manager. . . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor terminal. . . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor terminal.”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic

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money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen col. 4, ll. 9-10).

Masi (col. 4, ll. 4-13; FIG. 1, el. 26; col. 3, ll. 23-30; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) in view of the disclosure of Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein automatically crediting the merchant portion by the system manager further comprises automatically crediting the merchant portion by the system manager at a system manager terminal coupled over a network to a database storing the merchant account. . . .” because such electronic money distribution would have provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

As per claim 44 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 43. (See the rejection of claim 43 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1, el. 18; and col. 3, ll. 23-27) discloses a “*network. . . .*”

Masi (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) shows elements that suggest: “wherein automatically crediting the merchant portion. . . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “a scrip distributor. . . .” and “a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” even though Masi (FIG. 1; col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll.

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55-58) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor. . . .” and “a scrip distributor terminal. . . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor. . . .” and “a scrip distributor terminal. . . .”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

Masi (col. 4, ll. 4-13; FIG. 1, el. 26; col. 3, ll. 23-30; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) in view of the disclosure of Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein automatically crediting the merchant portion by the scrip distributor further comprises automatically crediting the merchant portion by the “a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” coupled over a network to a database storing the merchant account. . . .” because such electronic money distribution would have provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

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As per claim 45 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 1. (See the rejection of claim 1 supra).

Masi (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) shows elements that suggest: “automatically crediting a predetermined balance portion of the transaction amount to the scrip distributor account. . . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “electronic scrip” even though Masi (col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 3, ll. 19-40) discloses “*an electronic fund transfer*” which suggests electronic scrip.

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; and col. 4, ll. 6-12) discloses “*electronic money*.” The Examiner interprets the disclosure of “*electronic money*” as equivalent to “electronic scrip” within the context of the claims of the instant invention; therefore,

Rosen proposes “*electronic money*” modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that “*electronic money*” would have been selected in accordance with “electronic scrip” because such selection would have facilitated online commercial transactions; and it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the “*electronic money*” modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such “*electronic money*” would have been “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

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Masi lacks an explicit recital of “a scrip distributor. . . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor. . . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor.”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “automatically crediting the predetermined balance portion to the scrip distributor account further comprises automatically determining the balance portion for the scrip distributor account according to a predetermined scrip distributor percentage of the transaction amount. . . .”

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the above “balance portion” disclosure of Masi in view of the above “scrip” modifications of Rosen would have been selected in accordance with “automatically crediting the predetermined balance portion to the scrip distributor account further comprises automatically determining the balance portion for the scrip distributor account

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according to a predetermined scrip distributor percentage of the transaction amount. . . .”
because such selection would have provided means for distributing loyalty incentives.

As per claim 46 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 45. (See the rejection of claim 45 supra).

Masi (FIG. 2; FIG. 3; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) shows elements that suggest “automatically determining the balance portion. . . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “the scrip distributor. . . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) shows elements that suggest “the scrip distributor. . . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor.”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

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Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically determining the balance portion for the scrip distributor account further comprise[sic] automatically consulting a look-up table for the predetermined scrip distributor percentage.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (FIG. 2; FIG. 3; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) in view of the disclosure of Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48; and col. 4, ll. 9-10) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein automatically determining the balance portion for the scrip distributor account further comprise[sic] automatically consulting a look-up table for the predetermined scrip distributor percentage. . . .” because such selection would have provided a means to “*provide enrollment incentives to merchants. . . .*” (See Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45)).

As per claim 47 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 46. (See the rejection of claim 46 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1, el. 18; and col. 3, ll. 23-27) discloses a “*network. . . .*”

Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-37; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) shows a “*Terminal*” for “*data entry. . . .*”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “the scrip distributor. . . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) shows elements that suggest “the scrip distributor. . . .”

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Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor.”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically consulting the look-up table further comprises storing the look-up table in a database coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (FIG. 2; FIG. 3; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein automatically consulting the look-up table further comprises storing the look-up table in a database coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” because such selection would have provided a means to “*provide enrollment incentives to merchants. . . .*” (See Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45)).

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As per claim 48 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 1. (See the rejection of claim 1 supra).

Masi (FIG. 2; FIG. 3; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) shows elements that suggest “automatically crediting the predetermined balance portion to the sponsoring organization account further comprises automatically determining the balance portion for the sponsoring organization account according to a predetermined sponsoring organization percentage of the transaction amount.”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein “automatically crediting the predetermined balance portion to the sponsoring organization account further comprises automatically determining the balance portion for the sponsoring organization account according to a predetermined sponsoring organization percentage of the transaction amount.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (FIG. 2; FIG. 3; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein “automatically crediting the predetermined balance portion to the sponsoring organization account further comprises automatically determining the balance portion for the sponsoring organization account according to a predetermined sponsoring organization percentage of the transaction amount. . . .” because such selection would have provided

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a means to “*provide enrollment incentives to merchants. . . .*” (See Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45)).

As per claim 49 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 48. (See the rejection of claim 48 supra).

Masi (FIG. 2; FIG. 3; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) shows elements that suggest “automatically determining the balance portion. . . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically determining the balance portion for the sponsoring organization account further comprises automatically consulting a look-up table for the predetermined sponsoring organization percentage.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (FIG. 2; FIG. 3; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein automatically determining the balance portion for the sponsoring organization account further comprises automatically consulting a look-up table for the predetermined sponsoring organization percentage. . . .” because such selection would have provided a means to “*provide enrollment incentives to merchants. . . .*” (See Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45)).

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As per claim 50 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 49. (See the rejection of claim 49 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1, el. 18; and col. 3, ll. 23-27) discloses a “*network. . .*”

Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-37; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) shows a “*Terminal*” for “*data entry. . .*”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “the scrip distributor. . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) shows elements that suggest “the scrip distributor. . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor.”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically consulting the look-up table further comprises storing the look-up table in a database coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the

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disclosure of Masi (FIG. 2; FIG. 3; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein automatically consulting the look-up table further comprises storing the look-up table in a database coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” because such selection would have provided a means to “*provide enrollment incentives to merchants. . . .*” (See Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45)).

As per claim 51 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 48. (See the rejection of claim 48 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically determining the balance portion for the sponsoring organization account further comprises automatically deducting a previously received percentage of the transaction amount from the balance portion for the sponsoring organization account.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein automatically determining the balance portion for the sponsoring organization account further comprises automatically deducting a previously received percentage of the transaction amount from the balance portion for the sponsoring organization account. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein automatically determining the balance portion for the sponsoring organization

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account further comprises automatically deducting a previously received percentage of the transaction amount from the balance portion for the sponsoring organization account. . . .” because such selection would have provided a means to “*provide enrollment incentives to merchants. . . .*” (See Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45)).

Claim 52 is rejected for substantially the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 53 is rejected for substantially the same reasons as claim 2.

Claim 54 is rejected for substantially the same reasons as claim 4.

Claim 55 is rejected for substantially the same reasons as claim 3.

Claim 56 is rejected for substantially the same reasons as claim 5.

Claim 57 is rejected for substantially the same reasons as claim 6.

As per claim 58 Masi in view of Rosen shows the system of claim 52. (See the rejection of claim 52 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1, el. 18; and col. 3, ll. 23-27) discloses a “*network. . . .*”

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Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-37; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) shows a “*Terminal*” for “*data entry*. . . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “the scrip distributor. . . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) shows elements that suggest “the scrip distributor. . . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor.”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money*. . . .” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein automatically debiting means further comprises a merchant terminal coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (FIG. 2; FIG. 3; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein automatically debiting means further comprises a merchant

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terminal coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 59 Masi in view of Rosen shows the system of claim 58. (See the rejection of claim 58 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1, el. 18; and col. 3, ll. 23-27) discloses a “*network*. . . .”

Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-37; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) shows a “*Terminal*” for “*data entry*. . . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “a scrip manager terminal. . . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) shows elements that suggest “a scrip manager terminal. . . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip manager terminal. . . .”

Rosen proposes “scrip manager terminal. . . .” modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such “scrip manager terminal. . . .” modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money*. . . .” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

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Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein the debiting means further comprises a database storing the member account coupled over the network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip manager terminal.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi (FIG. 2; FIG. 3; the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein the debiting means further comprises a database storing the member account coupled over the network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip manager terminal. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 60 Masi in view of Rosen shows the system of claim 59. (See the rejection of claim 59 supra).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein the member account further comprises at least one of the member scrip account, a member checking account, and a member savings account.”

“Official Notice” is taken that both the concept and the advantages of “wherein the member account further comprises at least one of the member scrip account, a member checking account, and a member savings account. . . .” were well known and expected in the art by one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention; it would have been obvious to include the concept and the advantages of “wherein the member account further comprises

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at least one of the member scrip account, a member checking account, and a member savings account. . . .” because such selection would have facilitated online individualized commercial transactions.

As per claim 61 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 52. (See the rejection of claim 52 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1, el. 18; and col. 3, ll. 23-27) discloses a “*network*. . . .”

Masi (FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 36-37; col. 2, ll. 41-42; and col. 2, ll. 51-52) shows a “*Terminal*” for “*data entry*. . . .”

Masi (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) shows elements that suggest: “wherein the means for crediting the merchant portion. . . .” and “a system manager. . . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor terminal. . . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor terminal.”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic

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money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen col. 4, ll. 9-10).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “wherein the means for crediting the merchant portion further comprises a database storing the merchant account coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal. . . .”

Masi (col. 4, ll. 4-13; FIG. 1, el. 26; col. 3, ll. 23-30; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) in view of the disclosure of Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein the means for crediting the merchant portion further comprises a database storing the merchant account coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” because such electronic money distribution would have provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

As per claim 62 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 61. (See the rejection of claim 61 supra).

Masi (FIG. 2; and FIG. 3) shows elements that suggest “a look-up table. . . .”

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Masi (FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; col. 1, ll. 43-45; col. 3, ll. 38-40; col. 5, ll. 22-25; col. 5, ll. 53-54; and col. 4, ll. 30-67) shows elements that suggest “the merchant portion stored the database. . . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of: “wherein the means for crediting the merchant portion further comprises a look-up table of predetermined merchant percentage for determining the merchant portion stored in the database. . . .”

Masi (col. 4, ll. 4-13; FIG. 1, el. 26; col. 3, ll. 23-30; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) would have been selected in accordance with “wherein the means for crediting the merchant portion further comprises a look-up table of predetermined merchant percentage for determining the merchant portion stored in the database. . . .” because such selection would have provided a means to “*provide enrollment incentives to merchants. . . .*” (See Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45)).

As per claim 63 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 52. (See the rejection of claim 52 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1, el. 18; and col. 3, ll. 23-27) discloses a “*network. . . .*”

Masi (FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; col. 1, ll. 43-45; col. 3, ll. 38-40; col. 5, ll. 22-25; col. 5, ll. 53-54; and col. 4, ll. 30-67) shows elements that suggest “the merchant portion stored in the database. . . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “a scrip distributor. . . .” and “a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58)

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shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor. . . .” and “a scrip distributor terminal. . . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor terminal.”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

Masi (col. 4, ll. 4-13; FIG. 1, el. 26; col. 3, ll. 23-30; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) in view of the disclosure of Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) would have been selected in accordance with “means for crediting the predetermined portion to the scrip distributor account further comprises a database storing the scrip distributor account coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal.”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of ““means for crediting the predetermined portion to the scrip distributor account further comprises a database storing the scrip distributor account coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art

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at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi in view of Rosen would have been selected in accordance with “means for crediting the predetermined portion to the scrip distributor account further comprises a database storing the scrip distributor account coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” because such selection would have provided a means to “*provide enrollment incentives to merchants. . . .*” (see Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45)) and because such scrip (i.e., electronic money) would have provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

As per claim 64 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 63. (See the rejection of claim 63 supra).

Masi (FIG. 2; and FIG. 3) shows elements that suggest “a look-up table. . . .”

Masi (FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; col. 1, ll. 43-45; col. 3, ll. 38-40; col. 5, ll. 22-25; col. 5, ll. 53-54; and col. 4, ll. 30-67) shows elements that suggest a “portion stored in the database. . . .”

Masi (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) shows elements that suggest: “means for crediting the predetermined balance portion to the scrip distributor account. . . .”

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Masi lacks an explicit recital of “a scrip distributor. . . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor. . . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor.”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of: “wherein the means for crediting the predetermined balance portion to the scrip distributor account further comprises a look-up table or predetermined scrip distributor percentage for determining the scrip distributor portion stored in the database.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi in view of Rosen would have been selected in accordance with “wherein the means for crediting the predetermined balance portion to the scrip distributor account further comprises a look-up table of predetermined scrip distributor percentage for determining the scrip distributor portion stored in the database. . . .” because such selection would have provided a means to

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“provide enrollment incentives to merchants. . . .” (see Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45)) and because such scrip (i.e., electronic money) would have provided means for distributing electronic money that was *“interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .”* (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

As per claim 65 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 52. (See the rejection of claim 52 supra).

Masi (FIG. 1, el. 18; and col. 3, ll. 23-27) discloses a *“network. . . .”*

Masi (FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; col. 1, ll. 43-45; col. 3, ll. 38-40; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20 col. 5, ll. 22-25; col. 5, ll. 53-54; col. 4, ll. 30-67) shows elements that suggest “means for crediting the predetermined balance portion to the sponsoring organization account. . . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of “a scrip distributor. . . .” and “a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” even though Masi (col. 3, ll. 23-27; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor. . . .” and “a scrip distributor terminal. . . .”

Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) shows elements that suggest “a scrip distributor terminal.”

Rosen proposes electronic money distribution modifications that would have applied to the non-cash transaction system of Masi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the electronic

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money distribution modifications of Rosen with the non-cash transaction system of Masi because such electronic money distribution modifications would have been provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

Masi lacks an explicit recital of: “means for crediting the predetermined balance portion to the sponsoring organization account further comprises a database storing the sponsor organization account coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal.”

Masi (col. 4, ll. 4-13; FIG. 1, el. 26; col. 3, ll. 23-30; col. 5, ll. 17-20; and col. 1, ll. 55-58) in view of the disclosure of Rosen (the ABSTRACT; col. 3, ll. 46-47; col. 4, ll. 45-48) would have been selected in accordance with “means for crediting the predetermined balance portion to the sponsoring organization account further comprises a database storing the sponsor organization account coupled over a network to at least one of a system manager terminal and a scrip distributor terminal. . . .” because such selection would have provided a means to “*provide enrollment incentives to merchants. . . .*” (see Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45)) and because such scrip (i.e., electronic money) would have provided means for distributing electronic money that was “*interchangeable with conventional paper money. . . .*” (See Rosen (col. 4, ll. 9-10)).

As per claim 66 Masi in view of Rosen shows the method of claim 65. (See the rejection of claim 65 supra).

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Masi (FIG. 2; and FIG. 3) shows elements that suggest “a look-up table. . . .”

Masi (FIG. 1; FIG. 2; FIG. 3; col. 1, ll. 43-45; col. 3, ll. 38-40; col. 5, ll. 22-25; col. 5, ll. 53-54; and col. 4, ll. 30-67) shows elements that suggest a “portion stored in the database. . . .”

Masi (the ABSTRACT; FIG. 1; col. 2, ll. 13-62; col. 3, ll. 19-40; col. 3, ll. 42-44; col. 3, ll. 58-64; col. 4, ll. 12-14; col. 5, ll. 1-6; and col. 5, ll. 17-20) shows elements that suggest: “means for crediting the predetermined balance portion to the sponsoring organization account. . . .”

Masi lacks an explicit recital of: “wherein the means for crediting the predetermined balance portion to the sponsoring organization account further comprises a look-up table of predetermined sponsor organization percentage for determining the sponsor organization portion stored in the database.” It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the disclosure of Masi in view of Rosen would have been selected in accordance with “wherein the means for crediting the predetermined balance portion to the sponsoring organization account further comprises a look-up table of predetermined sponsor organization percentage for determining the sponsor organization portion stored in the database. . . .” because such selection would have provided a means to “*provide enrollment incentives to merchants. . . .*” (see Masi (col. 1, ll. 43-45)).

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RELEVANT PRIOR ART REFERENCE

3. The reference made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

U.S. Patent Document

5,511,121, U.S. Pat. [Apr. 23, 1996] Yacobi, 705/69
"EFFICIENT ELECTRONIC MONEY." This reference discusses *certification of electronic money*. (See FIG. 1; FIG. 4; FIG. 6; FIG. 7; FIG. 8; FIG. 9) Ref. Claims 1-66.

CONCLUSION

4. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Any response to this action may be sent via facsimile to either:

(703) 308-9051 (for formal communications marked EXPEDITED

PROCEDURE), or

(703) 308-5397 (for informal communications marked PROPOSED or DRAFT).

Hand delivered responses may be brought to:

Sixth floor Receptionist
Crystal Park II
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, Virginia.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John L. Young who may be reached via telephone at (703) 305-3801. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber, may be reached at (703) 305-8469.

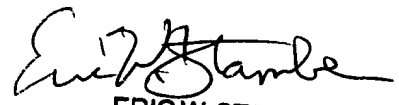
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

John L. Young



Patent Examiner

June 4, 2001



ERIC W. STAMBER
PRIMARY EXAMINER